

1 WE CLAIM:

Subj. a)

5

A connection comprising:

- a. a support member;
- b. a holder for compressibly holding a strap connector;
- c. a strap connector compressibly held by said holder; and
- d. fastener means attaching said holder to said support member.

2. The connection of claim 1 in which:

- a. said support member is a formboard for containing a concrete foundation during pouring and setting; and
- b. said strap connector is a strap tie holdown.

3. The connection of claim 1 in which:

- a. said strap connector has a first face and a second face; and
- b. said holder comprises an attachment portion, compression means and retaining means for retaining said compression means to said attachment portion.

4. The connection of claim 3 wherein:

- a. said attachment portion of said holder has a first surface that interfaces with said first face of said strap connector and said compression means of said holder has a second surface that interfaces with said second face of said strap connector, compressibly holding said strap connector.

5. The connection of claim 4 wherein said attachment portion of said holder further comprises:

- a. a first portion for attaching said holder to said support member in combination with fastener means; and
- b. a second portion joined to said first portion wherein said first surface of said attachment portion is located on said second portion.

6. The connection of claim 5 in which said retaining means of said holder further comprises:

- a. a third flange joined to said second portion;
- b. a fourth flange joined to said second portion;
- c. a fifth flange joined to said third flange;

1 d. a sixth flange joined to said fourth flange.

5 7. The connection of claim 6 wherein:

- a. said fifth flange and said second flange converge toward each other; and
- b. said sixth flange and said second flange converge toward each other.

6 8. The connection of claim 7 wherein:

- a. said first portion is a first flange and said second portion is a second flange disposed substantially orthogonally to said first flange;
- b. said third flange is disposed substantially orthogonally to said second flange;
- c. said fourth flange is disposed substantially orthogonally to said second flange;
- d. said fifth flange is disposed substantially orthogonally to said third flange; and
- e. said sixth flange is disposed substantially orthogonally to said fourth flange

20 9. The connection of claim 8 wherein:

- a. said second flange is joined to said first flange at a first linear juncture;
- b. said third flange is joined to said second flange at a second linear juncture;
- c. said fourth flange is joined to said second flange at a third linear juncture;
- d. said fifth flange is joined to said third flange at a fourth linear juncture; and
- e. said sixth flange is joined to said fourth flange at a fifth linear juncture.

35 10. The connection of claim 9 wherein said compression means of said holder is a wedge dimensioned to closely fit within the space defined by said second, third, fourth, fifth and sixth flanges.

00608382-102700

- 1 11. The connection of claim 10 wherein said wedge further comprises:
a tapered portion having a broad end and a narrow end and a tab
joined to said tapered portion at said broad end.
- 5 12. The connection of claim 11 wherein:
a. said tapered portion of said wedge further comprises a pair of
raised guides on said second surface that closely fit said strap connector;
and
b. said attachment portion of said holder further comprises a first
10 reference tab and a second reference tab.
13. The connection of claim 12 wherein said attachment portion of said
holder further comprises a planar gusset that is perpendicular to and
connects said first flange and said second flange.
- 15 14. The connection of claim 13 wherein:
a. said first flange of said attachment portion further comprises
fastener openings; and
b. said fastener means are fasteners.
- 20 15. The connection of claim 3 wherein:
a. said holder further comprises a transition portion connected to
said attachment portion having a first surface that interfaces with said first
face of said strap connector;
- 25 b. said compression means of said holder has a second surface
that interfaces with said second face of said strap connector, compressibly
holding said strap connector and said compression means is a screw with a
proximal end and a distal end and said second surface being at said distal
end; and
- 30 c. said retaining means is a retaining portion attached to said
transition portion, said retaining portion having a threaded opening that
threadably receives said screw.

16. The connection of claim 15 wherein:
35

- 1 a. said attachment portion further comprises a fastener portion
fixing said holder to said support member in combination with fastener
means;
- b. said transition portion further comprises:
- 5 i. a first strap receiving portion with a first slot closely
dimensioned to receive said strap connector, said first surface being a side of
said first slot ; and
- ii. a second strap receiving portion, with a second slot
closely dimensioned to receive said strap connector, said first surface being
10 in line with a side of said second slot.
17. The connection of claim 16, wherein said holder further comprises a
fourth flange joined to said fastener portion.
- 15 18. The connection of claim 16, wherein:
- a. said retaining portion is a second flange disposed substantially
orthogonally to said first strap receiving portion;
- b. said second strap receiving portion is a third flange disposed
substantially orthogonally to said second flange; and
- 20 c. said fourth flange is disposed substantially orthogonally to said
fastener portion.
19. The connection of claim 18, wherein:
- a. said second flange is joined to said strap receiving portion at a
25 first linear juncture;
- b. said third flange is joined to said second flange at a second
linear juncture; and
- c. said fourth flange is joined to said fastener portion at a third
linear juncture.
- 30 20. The connection of claim 19, wherein:
- a. said first linear juncture, said second linear juncture and said
third linear juncture are reinforced with raised embossments;
- b. said fastener portion further comprises fastener openings; and
- 35 c. said fastener means are fasteners.

- 1 21. The connection of claim 3 in which:
- a. said attachment portion further comprises:
- i. a first portion for attaching said holder to said support member in combination with fastener means; and
- 5 ii. a wedge having a first surface, said wedge being joined to said first portion;
- b. said compression means is a sleeve having a second surface closely dimensioned to fit said wedge such that said strap connector passes through said sleeve and is compressed between said first surface of said
- 10 wedge and said second surface of said sleeve, and said retaining means are incorporated in said compression means.

15

20

25

30

35